

Message Text

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41/44

ACTION SS-30

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O P 131225Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1570

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N I A L MANAMA 0834

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y OMISSION PARA ONE

1. IN MEETING WITH GOD FOREIGN MINISTER OCTOBER 13 I
REMINDED HIM THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT ON OCTOBER 19
DEADLINE AND THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED ON RENT
ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING GOB
TO REVERSE FORMALLY ITS DECISION TO TERMINATE STATIONING
AGREEMENT.

2. IN RESPONSE FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTED THAT I
INFORM WASHINGTON THAT DEADLINE IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT
AS FAR AS GOB IS CONCERNED. GOB HAS TAKEN BASIC
POLITICAL DECISION THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE WILL REMAIN.
THE "MAJOR PROBLEM" TO BE RESOLVED IN THAT CONNECTION,
QUESTION OF JURISDICTION, HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN
PRINCIPLE TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND GOB
GRATEFUL FOR OUR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON THIS. USG
HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED GOB TO RECONSIDER TERMINATION
NOTICE. HE COULD GIVE NOW VERBAL ASSURANCE RECONSIDERATIONS
IN PROCESS AND HENCE TERMINATION DEADLINE NO
LONGER HAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE AS FAR AS GOB CONCERNED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED THAT QUESTION OF FUTURE
RENT MUST OF COURSE BE RESOLVED TO GOB SATISFACTION.
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GOB CURRENTLY YLDNV THIS YEAR'S RENT PAYMENT PENDING

AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED RENT. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS JUST RETURNED FROM UNGA, EID HOLIDAY IS AT HAND, AND HE AND THE AMIR WILL BE SHORTLY LEAVING FOR RABAT SUMMIT, GOB PREFERS TO POSTPONE RENT DISCUSSIONS UNTIL IT CAN COME UP WITH FORMAL GOVERNMENT POSITION IN ORDERLY MANNER, AROUND BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER.

4. GOB STILL DETERMINED IT MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF USG HELP ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PUT CONTINUED NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN IN PERSPECTIVE AND MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO LOCAL AND ARAB OPINION. GOB AWARE DIFFICULTIES US GOVERNMENT HAS IN MAKEING A COMMITMENT TO ASSIST IN THIS REGART AT THIS TIME, BUT ASSUMES USG WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN GOOD FAITH TO MEET BAHRAIN'S FELT NEED FOR U.S. SUPPORT IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED THAT GOB ASSUMES THAT WITH BASIC PROBLEMS RESOLVED AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON RENT WITHOUT DIFFICLUTY. BAHRAIN WILL BE FORMULATING A RENTAL REQUEST WHICH IT CONSIDERS RESPECTABLE AND GENEROUS BUT JUSTIFIABLE AS A FAIR RENT. FOREIGN MINISTER RECONFIRMED GOB WOULD MUCH PREFER A SMALLER RENT AND A MODEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO A L RGER RENT AND NO HELP WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO RECONFIRMED THAT GOB WANTS TO PAY PART OF THE COST OF ANY ADVISERS WHICH USLFMIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE BAHRAIN.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY DIRECT QUESTION FOREIGN MUKSTER AFFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT NO LONGER FEELS COMPULSION TO HAVE ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS NEGOTIATION WRAPPED UP PRIOR TO OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 23. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO SUBM R QUESTION OF U.S. NAVY PRESENCE TO ASSEMBLY AND IS NOW PREPARING PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION FOR EXECUTIVE DECISION THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCZNWILL REMAIN. GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO JUSTIFY THIS DECISION TO INEVITABLE PARLIAMENTARY CRITICS ON GOUNDS OF OVERALL MIDDLE EAST UCOEATION, EXPANDING
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U.S.-BAHRAINI COOPERATION, AND ASSURANCES THAT MAJOR QUESTIONS BOTTER

GBAHRAINIS IN CONNECTION WITH NAVY PRESENCE (JURISDICTION AND RENT) WILL BE RESOLVED TO BAHRAIN'S SATISFACTION. FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO RECCKFIRMED THAT WHILE GOB PREPARED IN SUBSTANCE TO EXCHANGE PROCEDURAL NOTES ON ARTICLE 11 AND TO ACCEPT

OUR PROPOSED NOTE ON ARTICLE 14 OF THE
STATIONING AGREEMENT, IT PREFERS TO HOLD OFF ON
FORMAL CONSIDERATION UNTIL ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS
ARE RESOLVED AND ENTIRE PACKAGE CAN BE LAID BEFORE
THE CABINET AT ONE TIME FOR FORMAL APPROVAL.

7. I ASSURED KZREIGN MINISTER TMCT CMEF ADMIRAL HANKS
AND I WERE AT GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO DISCUSS RENT
QUESTION WHENEVER GOVERNMENT IS READY AND THAT USG
IS GIVING URGENT AND INTENSE CONSIDERATION TO WHAT WE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO MEET BAHRAIN'S DESIRE FOR U.S.
HELP WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

8. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DOD FOR ISA, JCS, CNO,
CINCUSNAVEUR.
TWINAM

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